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Alabama judge declares Natalee Holloway dead



Natalee Holloway

BIRMINGHAM -- A judge yesterday declared dead Natalee Holloway, the Alabama teenager who disappeared more than six years ago during a school trip to the Caribbean island of Aruba.

With both of Holloway's

parents present in the courtroom, Probate Judge Alan King said he would sign the order to allow a death certificate to be issued.

"This is a tremendously sad occasion. Our hearts go out to Dave Holloway, Matt, Beth Holloway, and all the members of this family on this sad day," King said, referring to the girl's father, brother and mother.

The death declaration came after Joran Van der Sloot, who was arrested but not charged in the 2005 disappearance of Holloway, confessed in Lima, Peru earlier this week to killing a woman in Peru.

Natalee Holloway disappeared on a high school graduation trip May 30, 2005. She was last seen leaving a bar with van der Sloot. Her body was never found.

European Ambassador stationed at Guyana, Mr. Robert Kopecky, visits Aruba's European House

ORANJESTAD- Recently, European Ambassador in Guyana, Mr. Robert Kopecky, paid a courtesy visit to the European House on Aruba. Mr. Kopecky is the successor of Mr. Geert Heikens, with whom the island enjoyed a very amiable relationship.

Mr. Kopecky came here to get acquainted as he is also European Ambassador to Aruba. One of the first places he visited is the European House, which opened last October. He was accompanied by Alex Albu – attaché of his department and Mrs. Maria Dijkhoff-Pita, director of Economic Affairs and contact person



on Aruba regarding supervision of the development funds of LGO

At the European House, Mr. Kopecky was warmly welcomed by Mrs. Mr. Indra Duarte, director of European Union Bureau and Kingdom Relations and Mr. Drs.

Cedrik Tilma, representative of the Aruba government in Brussels.

Mr. Kopecky expressed he was very impressed with the facility and its goals. Next month he will return to the island to give a lecture to students on the European Union and what membership entails, which our government considers a gracious gesture on his part and is highly appreciated.

Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman informed Mr. Kopecky of the vision of the current administration it is reported he is highly interested in a dialogue with the Prime Minister when he returns next month to Aruba.

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Staff Declaration 2011 forms available now

ORANJESTAD – Employee Declaration forms are now available at the Department of Labor offices at L.G. Smith Boulevard 134; H & R Managers and business owners can pick them up during office hours or they can also be downloaded from the website www.overheid.aw or www.gobierno.aw.

Annually, the Department of Labor requests information of all personnel in service, based on art. 3 sub-section 1, sub c of the Labor Regulation AB 1989 GT 6.

The forms can be delivered starting January 16 with a deadline of March 30, 2012 at the counter of the Department of Labor, 3rd floor.

The Department of Labor advises that this year there are new items on the form and all the spaces must be filled in

completely. This will be checked by the Department of Labor and incomplete forms will not be accepted.

If a business submits a digital form, a hard copy must still also be delivered at the Department of Labor, as it will be stamped with the government seal as proof of delivery, with the date of delivery, so it is for a business' protection and advantage to do this.

Office hours of the Department of Labor are from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Its offices are situated at L.G. Smith Boulevard 134, tel. 583-7720.

For information, please contact Simon Brete or Louissety Croes or send an e-mail at simon.brete@aruba.gov.aw or louissety.croes@aruba.gov.aw

Turkey charges Duchess of York over orphan film

ANKARA (AFP) - Turkish prosecutors have charged Britain's Duchess of York for secretly filming a documentary critical of conditions in Turkish orphanages, the Turkish media reported yesterday.

The Anatolia news agency said the duchess, better known in Britain as Sarah

Ferguson or simply as Fergie, is accused of violating the privacy of five children when she filmed with a hidden camera at an orphanage outside Ankara in 2008.

Britain has already rejected a 2009 request from Ankara for the duchess's extradition.

Conversations with: Giovanni Trim Keeping that old time sound alive

Giovanni Trim is a talented entertainer, popular at numerous Aruban resort happy hours. This past year he released an international video that is receiving wide acclaim. His original composition, "I Believe in Miracles," hit high on the charts in 32 islands in the Caribbean, and his CD was picked up for distribution by Tempo Records in the U.S. Those who appreciated the unique regional sound of reggae with contemporary innovations, will very much enjoy this collection.

Giovanni has an energy and personality that infuses his audience with the urge to get up and dance. A native Aruban son, he began his singing career alongside his brother and sister in their church choir while Mom played the organ, and he usually reserves his Sundays to join them in song and prayer. At the tender age of 15, he turned professional, and is in great demand at island venues showcasing local music. He has such devoted fans among island visitors that there have been occasions when they have paid all his expenses to have him come to perform at weddings and Bar Mitzvahs, guaranteeing a lively affair.

When he was 15 he won the annual Roadmarch King in the Youth Division, which launched his career, and he penned the first song that began tradition of a "Road Jam." A song will be selected that becomes the official song of Carnival, usually performed by the winner of the Adult Roadmarch contest, however, a popular choice among the islanders will also be heard with equal frequency, and this earns the title of "Road Jam."

Giovanni also opened one of Aruba's first popular Karaoke clubs, "Grammys" in Oranjestad in 2002 and unveiled his "Karaoke Bus," in 2010, taking the show on the



road, and making vacationers the stars.

"In my life, music has always been the driving force," expressed Giovanni. "I love sharing my music with my fellow islanders, but I am now ready to go international and make things happen. I am looking forward to it. Part of the process has been meeting other artists from around the Caribbean and sharing our creativity; I love it, as it is really helping me grow as an artist-I look forward to seeing what will happen."

"The CD I am doing now is very much based on my life's experience with love; the positive and negatives of the emotional experience. I have also brought a bit of my gospel background to one of the songs, which is about the love of the lord. I may perform professionally six days a week, but I save my Sundays for the Big Man above."

Giovanni's energetic and entertaining performance can be enjoyed Monday through Saturday at these venues:

Monday: Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort from 8:00 to

10:00 PM

Tuesday: Garufa Cigar Lounge in Oranjestad from 8:00 to 11:00 PM

Wednesday: Lola's Bar at Costa Linda from 8:00 to 11:00 PM

Thursday: Mulligan's in the Divi Links Clubhouse, including karaoke from 9:00 to 11:00 PM

Friday: Divi Mega All-Inclusive Resort from 9:00 PM to midnight

Saturday: La Cabana All Suite Beach Resort, Poolside from 4:00 to 7:00 PM.

by Rosalie Klein

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Safety Tips from the Police for Motorbike Users

ORANJESTAD -- In view of the recent Motorbike fatal accidents, the Police Force has issued reminders regarding the law with respect to the security of operating motorbikes.

The recent fatalities has brought much suffering to the families and to others involved in the process of the incident as well as to the community in general. Hence, it is imperative that the Police Force remind us all of the importance of obeying the laws. The traffic laws are designed to protect our community of dangers, both physical danger and from damage to material. One of those exposed to more danger than any other is the operator of a motorbike. Of late, many have

chosen to operate a motorbike, or ATV (the so-called Quad Racers) and scooters. Some use these for pleasure, while there are those who use the motorbike to save money on gas. Still others use the motorbike to help protect the environment from more pollutants.

For whatever reason you are operating a motorbike, the fact is that there are many more two-wheeled vehicles on our public roads today.

The Police Force wants to remind us all that, if you operate a two-wheeled vehicle (motorbike):

1. The law (article 47 of the traffic law) says that you must wear a helmet for your own safety. This helm must also be

one that fits properly on your head to offer adequate protection

2. The helm must be properly secured on your head with a band under your chin. Hence it can not simply be resting on your head. It must be properly fastened.

3. This same law also states that the helm must be made of a durable material which can truly protect you head in the event of an accident. A full-faced helmet is advisable to better protect both your head and face. A good helm will protect your head in any accident situation.

4. Although not included in the law, but appropriate clothing is also necessary when op-

erating a motorbike. If you can afford it, a good motorbike suit is highly recommended. If not, your clothing should be of such that help protect you against sever scratches if you fall on asphalt. Clothing with sponge filling will help lessen the impact of a fall. Leather boots are also preferable. Never barefoot, or with slippers, or in shorts. Bare back is worse than anything imaginable.

5. Operating a motorbike at night, the following is very important: Wear clothing of clear colors easily visible at night. White, neon yellow, neon orange and reflective material are always best. It is also advisable to affix reflective material on the bike. Place such



Motorcycle jacket: recommended

material on the sides of the bike as well, so that should you fall off the bike at night other traffic will be able to see you and summons help.

6. Be sure that your tires are properly inflated and are in good condition.

Continued on page 5

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After the great success of the recent course held in November the Art of Living Foundation is pleased to announce a repeat of the Art of Breathing course.

The Art of Living Foundation is a non-profit, non religious, educational and humanitarian NGO (Non-Govern-

mental Organisation) engaged in stress-management and service initiatives. Founded in 1981 by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar the organisation operates globally in 151 countries.

The organisation's programs are guided by Sri Sri's philosophy of peace: "Unless we have a stress-free mind and a violence-free society, we cannot achieve world Peace. "To help individuals get rid of stress and experience inner peace, The Art of Living offers stress-elimination programs which include breathing techniques, meditation and yoga. These programs have helped millions around the world to overcome stress, depression and violent tendencies.

The Art of Living Foundation has spread peace across communities through diverse humanitarian projects, including conflict resolution, disaster relief, sustainable rural development, empowerment of women, prisoner rehabilitation, education for all, and environmental sustainability.

There will be a choice of morning and evening courses which will be led by the renowned International teacher Dushyant Savadia. The courses are on January 23 to 26, 2012. The morning courses are from 9.00 am - 12.30 pm. The evening courses are from 7.00 pm - 10.30 pm.

Interested persons can contact Jody at 5624722 or Diya at 7373743 or send an email to aolaruba@gmail.com.

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Luz Estella Ocampo is the lucky winner of Ventaha by SETAR N.V.

Recently, loyal Ventaha customer, Mrs. Estella Ocampo, was awarded her prize from a special campaign, by local celebrity DJ Sonri. Mrs. Ocampo won a trip worth Afl.5000 (\$2,750) by using her Ventaha card for calling her family in Medellin, Colombia, and she is thrilled. She also commented she had a long, pleasant chat with her family members in Medellin thanks to her handy Ventaha card.

In 2011, Ventaha calling cards, issued by Aruba's telecommunication company, SETAR N.V., began this special campaign for all its clients, by using the Ventaha calling card, which is specifically for making international phone calls. During the month of January, Ventaha is raffling Afls. 1,000 in cash prizes; to participate is easy: just buy a Ventaha card of Afl. 8,75 (\$5) or Afl. 17,50 (\$10), use it for a minimum of



5 minutes and you will automatically be eligible to win.

At present, The Ventaha calling card is the easiest and cheapest way for making international calls. It has super-attractive prices for calls to Colombia, Venezuela, St. Domingo, Peru, the Netherlands, U.S.A., Curacao, India, and China.

The cards can be obtained throughout the island at gas stations, mini markets, supermarkets and at the various SETAR teleshops and is sold in denominations of \$5, \$15, \$20 and \$30; the cards work with GSM PRIMO, Ventaha Mobil, postpaid cellular from SETAR, house phones and public phones.

Honored Visitors at the Manchebo Beach Resort and Spa

Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored Mr. Joannes and Mrs. Mareijke de Heij as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The couple has been visiting Aruba for 11 consecutive years and is a very loyal guest of the Manchebo Beach Resort. The main reasons they keep coming back to Aruba are the friendly people at The Manchebo Beach Resort, the great accommodation, the beaches, beautiful weather and our fabulous restaurants. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority presented the Heijs a certificate as a 'thank you' gesture, in presence of staff members from the Manchebo Beach Resort and Spa.



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Safety tips for motorbike...

Continued from page 3

7. Make every effort to avoid driving on wet roads. Even the manufactures of motorbikes advise against operating these bikes on wet surfaces. If you must travel on wet roads, use a dirt surface or rough soil or road with less traffic and maintain a speed of no more than 50km/per hour.

8. By all means, never use a cellular while driving your motorbike! Switch off your cell or simply ignore any calls coming in while you're operating a motorbike.

9. Never use drugs or alcohol if you have to operate a motor vehicle, and this includes a motorbike!

10. Use extra caution when overtaking vehicles on the road, this is especially for vehicles in a traffic line up.

Many accidents have occurred when overtaking vehicle in a line up. A door may suddenly open on you, or a vehicle may decide suddenly to jump out of line not realizing that you are approaching.

Each of these rules has one objective, and that is to protect you. But, if you fail to obey the rules you will suffer the ugly and painful consequences. The Police Force, therefore urges everyone to make a commitment to follow the rules for their own safety and for the safety of others.

Also, those with larger vehicles on our roads must be considerate of others, of motorbikes. Operators of automobiles need to be more respectful to motorbikes.

The birds almost gone to the birds

By: Roland W. Peterson

*Little bird fly free
where ever you may be*

*Because of not flying
the Boa has put an end to me*

*There were no birds on the
limb
They were all flying*

*So the Boa went up the limb
and kept trying*



*No more birds around
Not even on the ground*

*The Boa has no respect
Today we see the effect*

*Almost gone is the Prikichi
and so the Patrichi*

*The Choco is next?
The people are vexed.*

*The birds are almost
gone to the*



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Jeff and Valerie De Vries Honored at the Divi Aruba Beach Resort



Recently, Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Valerie De Vries were honored as Distinguished of Aruba by the Aruba Tourism Authority. This nice couple have been visiting the Island for 10 consecutive years and are so much in love with our beautiful Island. The climate, scenery, shopping and most of all the people of Aruba is what makes them come back. They received their certificate from Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of three beautiful ladies representing the Divi Aruba Beach Resort, Kathling, Vivian and Shirley.

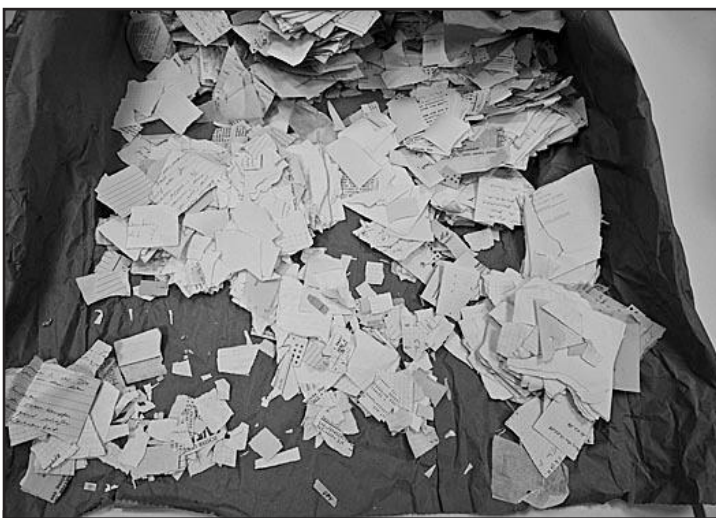
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS



BERLIN -- Torn or shredded Stasi documents earmarked for destruction after the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989 wait to be sorted by workers in the former headquarters of the Stasi (East German communist secret police), in Berlin January 12, 2012. Workers are sifting through 15.500 bags, containing between 50.000 and 80.000 fragments each. The sorted fragments will then be scanned and virtually reconstructed by a specially designed computer program.

AFP PHOTO

SNC says Syria regime 'liquidating' journalists

DAMASCUS (AFP) - The opposition Syrian National Council accused the regime yesterday of "liquidating" journalists in order to hush up what is happening in the country, a day after a French reporter was killed.

State news agency SANA said Syria would set up a commission of inquiry to probe the death of Gilles Jacquier, who was killed on Wednesday during a government-organised trip to the flashpoint city of Homs.

The award-winning Jacquier, 43, was the first Western reporter to die in Syria since anti-regime protests erupted in mid-March last year.

An AFP photographer said he was killed when a shell exploded among some 15 journalists covering demonstrations in Homs. Eight Syrians were also killed, according to

SANA, and several other people were wounded.

France called on the Syrian authorities to investigate the circumstances of Jacquier's death shortly after the attack, which was described by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe as an "odious act."

The opposition SNC denounced the "murder" saying it was a "dangerous sign that the authorities have decided to physically liquidate journalists in an attempt to silence neutral and independent media."

Anti-regime activists in Homs also said the authorities had orchestrated the attack, while state television blamed "a terrorist group" that had opened fire on the journalists and regime supporters.

Wissam Tarif, an Arab campaigner with international activist non-governmental organisation Avaaz, also disputed the government's claims.

US condemns abuse video but Taliban talks survive

WASHINGTON -- (AFP) - A video purportedly showing US Marines urinating on dead insurgents in Afghanistan prompted American condemnation and a Pentagon probe yesterday, but the Taliban said peace efforts would continue.

A senior US military official said the Marines believed they had identified the unit at the center of the allegations, which evoked memories of previous abuses committed by US troops in Iraq and during the decade-long Afghan war.

"We cannot release the name of the unit at this time since the incident is being investigated," a spokesman from the Marines said, referring to the images that could spark outrage and unrest in Afghanistan and the wider

Muslim world.

The video appeared to show four servicemen in United States military uniform urinating on three bloodied corpses and one of the men, apparently aware he was being filmed, saying: "Have a great day, buddy," referring to one of the dead.

US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta pledged that "those found to have engaged in such conduct will be held accountable to the fullest extent," and a Pentagon spokesman confirmed that a probe into the alleged abuse was under way.

"This conduct is entirely inappropriate for members of the United States military and does not reflect the standards or values our armed forces are sworn to uphold," Panetta said in a statement.

"I have seen the footage, and I find the behavior depicted in it utterly deplorable. I condemn it in the strongest possible terms."

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters of her "total dismay at the story concerning our Marines," and

joined Panetta in condemning "the deplorable behavior that is reflected in this video."

"It is absolutely inconsistent with American values, with the standards of behavior that we expect from our military personnel," Clinton said.

The Taliban, who have made recent moves toward talks to end 10 years of US-led war in the impoverished country, described the apparent abuse as "an inhumane and savage act by the American soldiers in Afghanistan."

But spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed said he did not think it would destroy tentative peace negotiations with the United States, "which at this stage are mainly about prisoner exchange".

Earlier in the day, the insurgents issued another statement supporting talks to end the war against US-led forces, while warning that this did not mean surrender.

The Pentagon says it has not yet verified the footage, which has been broadcast by leading Afghan television station Tolo News.

@michelleobama joins Twitter revolution

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US First Lady Michelle Obama quickly snapped up tens of thousands of Twitter followers yesterday, as she joined the social network and opened a new front in her husband's reelection campaign.

"Hi, everyone, and thanks for the warm welcome. Look forward to staying in touch with you here," @michelleobama said in a tweet authenticated by her initials "mo."

The account will be mostly run by Obama's 2012 reelection campaign, and is similar to @BarackObama's Twitter

output, which is also mostly a product of campaign staff.

Occasionally however, the president, who is often pictured with a BlackBerry or iPad, does produce a personal tweet, designated by his initials "bo."

By lunchtime yesterday, just a few hours after the account's debut, @MichelleObama had garnered more than 80,000 followers on the micro-blogging site, an impressive total, but well short of her husband's following which is close to 12 million.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran president in Ecuador on last leg of LatAm tour

QUITO (AFP) - Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrived in Ecuador yesterday on the last leg of a Latin American tour aimed at marshaling support for his country's tense nuclear stand-off with the West.

Ahmadinejad was welcomed by Foreign Minister Rafael Patino after landing at an airbase in the southwestern city of Guayaquil on a flight from Cuba, before heading to the capital Quito for talks with President Rafael Correa.

He arrived in Ecuador amid deep fury in Tehran over Wednesday's killing of an Iranian nuclear scientist, with the government demanding strong UN Security Council condemnation and saying it had evidence unnamed "foreign quarters" were behind it.

The Islamic Republic has pointed the finger at both Israel and the United States, but Washington said it had nothing to do with the deadly car-

bombing.

Amid escalating Western pressure to stop alleged efforts by Iran to acquire a nuclear weapons capability, US President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke by phone yesterday to discuss the stand-off.

And a senior Russian security official warned of the "real danger" of a US military strike against Iran and possible Western intervention in Syria.

"There is a likelihood of military escalation of the conflict, and Israel is pushing the Americans towards it," Russian Security Council secretary Nikolai Patrushev said in an interview with the Kommersant daily.

"There is a real danger of a US military strike on Iran," he added, saying that strife-torn Syria, which has refused to break its ties with Tehran, could also be a target for Western intervention.

Still in ruins: Haiti marks two years after quake

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Haitians flocked to churches yesterday to mark the second anniversary of the catastrophic 2010 earthquake that killed a quarter-of-a-million people in the poorest country in the Americas.

The flattened presidential palace and Port-au-Prince's hollowed-out cathedral offered striking symbols of the failure of an international aid effort that never lived up to its promise, despite billions of pledged dollars.

UN fact sheets highlighted the hundreds of thousands of people relocated from tent cities in 2011 and the 1.1 million children now receiving daily food aid, but the pace of reconstruction has been painfully slow.

That is partly explained by the cataclysmic scale of the January 12, 2010 disaster, which killed, injured or displaced one in six of the Caribbean nation's entire population, razing some 250,000 homes in the capital alone.

But Haiti was also already the economic basket case of the Western Hemisphere, a dysfunctional country often ruled by a corrupt elite while



TITANYIN : Haitians place a cross and a wreath atop a hill at Titanyin (16 Km in the north of Port-au-Prince) at the commune site of displaced victims of the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti.
(AFP PHOTO)

80 percent of the population lived below the poverty line, most in stinking slums.

More than half-a-million people displaced by the 2010 quake subsist in 800 squalid tent camps around the capital, and the health authorities, propped up by an army of NGOs, are still battling a cholera epidemic that has killed nearly 7,000 people since November 2010.

In this largely Roman Catholic country, places of worship were holding services

throughout the day to remember the disaster, throwing open their doors to quake survivors, many still traumatized by the events of that day.

Government officers were shuttered along with schools and businesses.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon paid tribute to those who died -- including more than 100 UN personnel -- and called on international donors to keep up their "vital support" for the rebuilding two years after the disaster.

Three dead, 60 wounded in Bolivia clashes

LA PAZ (AFP) - Three people were killed and 60 others wounded in fierce clashes between supporters and adversaries of a controversial mayor in Bolivia, Interior Minister Wilfredo Chavez said yesterday.

Seventeen police officers were among the wounded when they tried to break up the clashes on Wednesday in Yapacani, a small town near Bolivia's economic center of Santa Cruz. Dozens of people were arrested.

Chavez said the toll was "a result of the use of knives and guns" during a demonstration against Yapacani mayor David Carvajal, who stands accused

of corruption.

The minister had announced Wednesday the alleged resignation of Carvajal, after the mayor's duties were suspended at the end of 2011, but in the morning he said a

court allowed Carvajal to remain in office.

Police fired tear gas at protesters, who used sticks and stones as they mounted an assault to try and storm the municipal seat.



EL SALVADOR, San Salvador : Salvadorean army veteran Roberto Enriquez, who lost a leg in combat during the 1980-92 civil war, takes part in a protest at El Salvador del Mundo square in San Salvador on January 12, 2012. More than 200 army veterans marched yesterday asking for better pensions, 20 years after the end of the civil war. This year El Salvador will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the peace agreements who put an end to the conflict.
(AFP PHOTO)

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Health & Living

Can cosmetic surgery tame its Wild West?



PARIS (AFP) - From US "Botox parties" to Asia's craze for eyelid jobs or Brazilian bum lifts, millions now reshape their bodies through cosmetic surgery each year.

But the booming industry is battling a Wild West of rogue practices, cruelly highlighted by the French breast implant scandal.

Until the 1990s, "there was a veil of secrecy around cosmetic procedures," says Sander Gilman, psychiatry professor at Emory University in the United States, and author of several books on cosmetic surgery.

In the 21st century world, you can fly to Turkey or India

for a cut-price breast job, sign up for a surgical full-body makeover on reality TV, or curl up in front of an episode of the hit plastic surgery-themed series "Nip/Tuck".

What happened in between? How did practices until recently seen as shameful, unethical, even taboo, become close to commonplace, in a rapid and remarkable shift in values?

The short answer, by and large, is Botox -- or Botulinum toxin -- a poisonous substance which when injected in small doses masks wrinkles by temporarily paralysing the facial muscles, and which became widely available in the 1990s.

"Suddenly cosmeticians

were doing Botox injections, people were having Botox parties injecting each other," said Gilman.

"Botox caused a ripple effect where the next stage -- having surgical procedures -- became more acceptable," he said. "A facelift became something you talked about. Cosmetic surgery became ordinary."

Worldwide in 2010, plastic surgeons carried out an estimated 18.5 million operations, according to the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ISAPS), a non-profit group representing surgeons in 93 countries.

The United States tops the list, with 3.3 million operations, followed by Brazil, then China, Japan and India, according to ISAPS projections based on a survey of 698 surgeons worldwide.

Half are for full surgery, with liposuction and breast augmentation the most popular operations, while the rest are for non-surgical procedures.

The fastest growth area for the multi-billion-dollar market, these non-surgical treatments include injections of Botox, of so-called "skin fillers" such as hyaluronic acid or body fat, and a dozen procedures from laser hair removal to chemical peeling.

-- 'We see catastrophes on a monthly basis' --

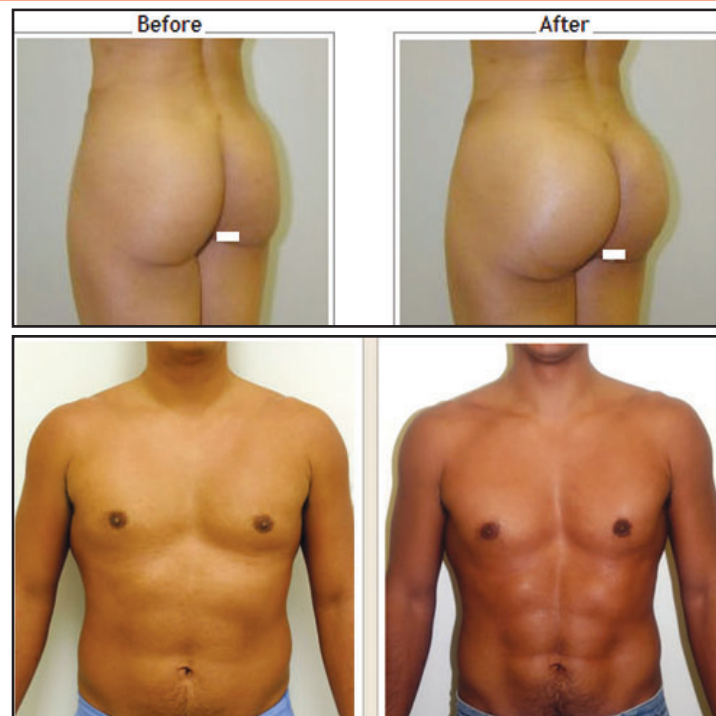
The true figures are probably far higher since ISAPS only counts work carried out by registered plastic surgeons.

"The problem worldwide is that a very, very large number of people who are not educated in surgery are starting to offer aesthetic surgery," said the president of ISAPS, the Swiss-based plastic surgeon Jan Poell.

Today general practitioners can legally offer breast augmentations or liposuctions, without specific training. The same applies to beauticians, who can legally perform non-surgical work like skin filler injections.

"We see catastrophes on a monthly basis: asymmetries, expulsions of implants, facial palsy, eyelids that can't close anymore," resulting from botched operations performed in places like Taiwan or Eastern Europe, Poell said.

Skin fillers -- which like breast implants are not considered to be medicines -- are a grey area, with Europe lagging behind the United States when it comes to regulating what products can be injected and by whom.



Cosmetic surgeons meeting in Paris on January 27 for the International Master Class on Ageing (IMCAS) congress are set to release a study on complications linked to injections, as part of a push for tighter regulation.

According to the French sanitary authority AFSSAPS, between 0.1 and one percent of patients suffer serious side effects after a skin filler injection.

Because most skin filler products have temporary effects, the likelihood of a full-blown sanitary scandal is limited.

"Most of the fillers are like Botox: by the time you get to court they've worn off," said consultant plastic surgeon Douglas McGeorge, who sits on the council of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, (BAAPS).

But when it comes to surgery there are horror stories -- at least half a dozen of them reported in recent years -- of people dying following backstreet cosmetic operations, often as a result of complications from anaesthesia.

There are no global figures on cases of botched cosmetic surgery, but the unfolding breast implant scandal has spotlighted how badly things can go wrong when dishonesty is thrown into the bargain.

Some 300,000 women in 65 countries are estimated to have received implants produced by the now defunct French company, Poly Implant Prothese (PIP), which allegedly used an illegal industrial-grade gel that investigators say has led to abnormally high rupture rates.

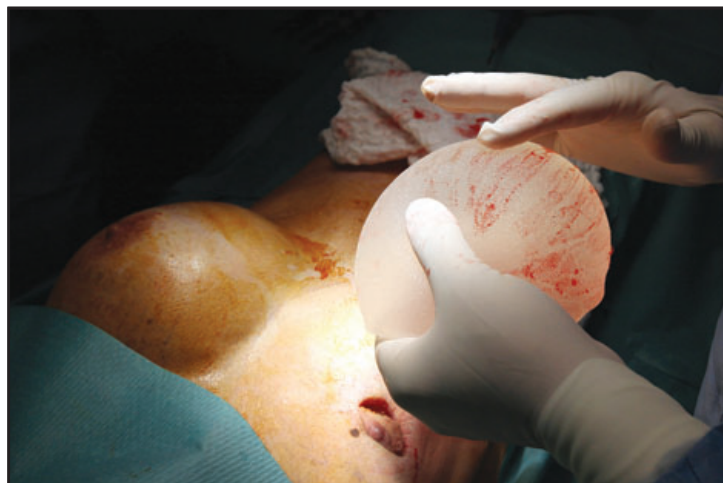
France has already advised the removal of the implants, while 13 countries in Europe and in Latin America have urged women to seek regular checkups.

Poell believes we are unlikely to witness another implant scandal: "Everybody will be very, very careful. And if people become more alert, the scandal could even have a positive side effect."

To combat rogue practice, ISAPS runs public education programmes and offers insurance for consumers who seek surgery abroad, guaranteeing treatment for possible complications so long as they use an ISAPS-approved surgeon.

As a rule of thumb, Poell said, low cost surgery -- wherever it is offered -- should set off alarm bells.

"Good plastic surgery has the same price everywhere," he said. "If you can get a breast augmentation in another country for less than what I pay for an implant, then something is wrong."



French Doctor Denis Boucq removes a breast implant produced by PIP (Poly Implant Prothese) company during a surgical operation on December 21, 2011 in Nice, south-eastern France. German health authorities on January 6, 2012 recommended that women with potentially faulty breast implants made by French firm PIP should have them removed. AFP PHOTO

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Wind turbine giant Vestas to cut 2,335 jobs this year



(AFP)- Wind turbine giant Vestas said Thursday it would slash 2,335 jobs, leaving Denmark's government red-faced after it made "green technologies" a top priority of its just-launched EU presidency.

"Vestas will reduce its fixed costs by more than 150 million euros (\$190 million) -- with full effect as from the end of 2012 -- primarily through streamlining of support functions and closing of factories to align capacity with market demand," the Danish group said in a statement.

The group added that it was preparing for "a potential slowdown in the US in case the present Production Tax Credit (PTC) is not extended. This can result in (the) lay off of an additional 1,600 employees at plants in the US."

Vestas, whose share price was down 6.35 percent in late afternoon trading in Copenhagen, announced the cuts on the day the Danish government officially began its six-month EU presidency with a visit from the European Commission to the capital.

Denmark's Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt, a Social Democrat, has said that one of the country's top priorities during the presidency would be "green growth."

She admitted that Vestas' announcement "feels today like an enormous setback, but this setback should not make us change our strategy."

It is "still my hope and belief that we need to invest in

green technologies" both for the sake of the environment and economic growth in Europe, she stressed.

Nevertheless, some members of her staff were clearly embarrassed.

"It's bad news and the timing is bad, the same day as the official opening of the presidency," one advisor said on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, the head of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso acknowledged the announcement was a setback but said it was not a reflection of the outlook for the green technology field.

Vestas last week issued a profit warning, saying sales for 2011 would be around 400 million euros (\$522 million) lower than expected a few months ago, and that its expenses would be about 125 million euros more than previously forecast due to higher production costs.

The announcement, Vestas second profit warning in a matter of months, sent the company's stock price plunging 19 percent on the Copenhagen exchange.

The company slipped into the red in the third quarter, reporting a loss of 60 million euros compared to a profit of 187 million euros a year earlier.

It also announced at the time that it was abandoning its targets of 15 billion euros in revenue and an EBIT (earnings before interest and taxes) margin of 15 percent in 2015.

Sci-Tech

Global cyber anti-garbage drive aims to muster millions

(AFP) - Cyber-environmentalists said Thursday they aim to mobilise millions of people around the world for a mass waste clean-up, saying they had to step in because governments had failed to do so.

Tiina Urm, spokeswoman of the Estonian-piloted "Let's Do It!" campaign, told AFP that anti-waste activists hoped to see numbers spiral this year thanks to projects in 82 countries, five times more than in the successful 2011 edition.

"By the end of 2011 more than 2.7 million people have participated in Let's Do It! cleanup actions in 16 countries. We hope that this year's global campaign will attract tens of millions, and our most positive expectation is to reach 100 million," Urm said.

The campaign started in 2008 in Estonia, where organisers created special software to map and photograph 11,000 illegal garbage dumps across the nation of 1.3 million people.

A total of 50,000 volunteers mustered by the campaign's website managed to locate and collect 10,000 tonnes of illegally dumped trash in one day, leading organisers to go global.



Trash piles up in a street in Tunis in 2011.

The 2012 edition, running from March to September, aims to gather hundreds of thousands of tonnes worldwide.

Team leaders from 46 countries gathered in the Estonian capital Tallinn on Thursday for a four-day conference focusing on the 2012 campaign.

"Despite all the talk, climate conferences and political efforts in last 20 years, the world's getting dirtier," campaign chief Rainer Nolvak told AFP.

"Governments have demonstrated that they cannot reverse this," he said.

"So we are going to clean

up the planet, together with communities around the world... Why create waste at all? Humans are the only species on Earth who does that," he added.

Among the countries involved in the 2012 campaign is Estonia's giant neighbour Russia.

"Waste is becoming an important issue in Russia, not only as a problem for government and society to discuss and solve, but also as something that encourages people to unite and make them to do something on their own initiative," Russian campaign organiser Tatyana Kargina told AFP in Tallinn.

Android-powered watches get Internet savvy

(AFP) - The Internet was strapped to wrists at the Consumer Electronics Show on Wednesday in the form of Android-powered "smart watches" that serve up online content along with telling time.

Japanese consumer electronics titan Sony and venture-backed Italian startup i'm Watch were each sporting spins on timepieces that use the Google software to connect wearers with email, music, websites or other online content.

Sony's SmartWatch was promised by the end of March while i'm Watch was released at CES.

"This is the right period for the watch," i'm Watch chief executive and co-founder Massimiliano Bertolini told AFP at the company's booth on the

show floor.

"Everybody wants to have technology that is also fashion," he continued. "That is the Apple secret; making devices that people fall in love with."

For some time now California-based Apple has been letting iPod Nano owners turn the small, square devices into Internet-connected watches complete with wrist straps.

i'm Watch ranges in price from \$350 for colorful models with silicon wrist bands and aluminum-cased touchscreens to \$15,000 for one made of pink gold and adorned with diamonds, according to company designer Gianluca Negrello.

Wearers are alerted to new Gmail messages or fresh posts at online communities Facebook or Twitter and can access digital photo albums or free


Google Web-based services such as Calendar.

Messages can't be sent from touch-screen i'm Watch, which can connect to their own online shop for applications or music. People can make phone calls using i'm Watch, which links wirelessly to smartphones.

Sony said at CES that by the end of March it will release a touch-display SmartWatch capable of connecting to mobile phones wirelessly using Bluetooth capabilities.


Applications will be tailored for SmartWatch, which will be priced at \$149.

SmartWatch devices being sported by workers at the Sony booth were tethered wirelessly to Android-powered Xperia smartphone models the company unveiled at the show.



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ACROSS

1. ___ bracelet
6. Crude stuff
10. Fashionable Big Apple avenue
14. "___ painted pony..."
15. Biblical city
16. Orchestral instrument
17. Independently
18. Thora's "Ghost World" role
19. Trust
20. Cheese made at a French monastery
22. Ancient marker
23. Immediately, on "ER"
24. Chock full
26. Function
29. Sudden invasion
31. "For the Boys" performance venue
32. One on bended knee
34. Minstrel's song
38. First name in Finnish architects
39. Bering, for one
41. Site of St. Columba's monastery
42. Legions
45. Educated
48. Work with shuttle and thread
49. Emulate Cab Calloway
50. Flat ___ pancake
51. Averts a blow, in fencing
55. Swedish statesman Palme
57. Occupation: suffix
58. Atlas of the

Middle Ages

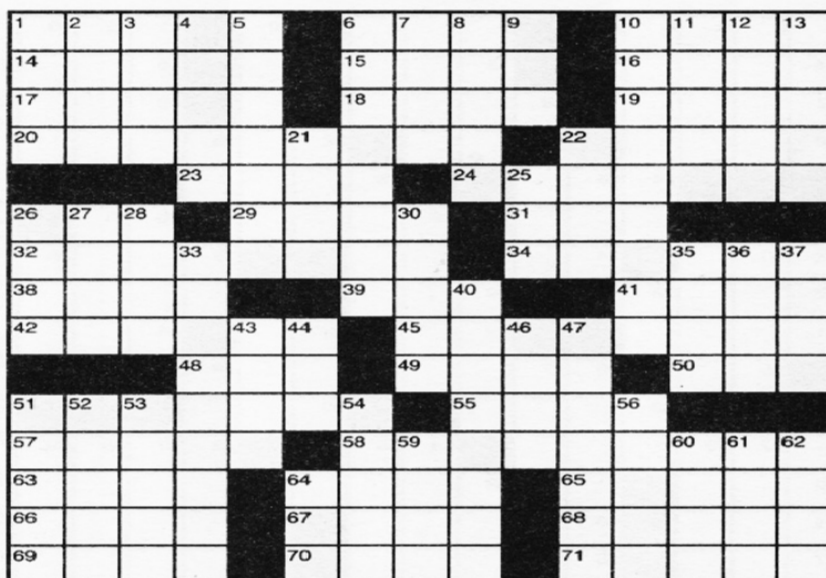
63. Like an overgrown thicket
64. Hairless
65. Metric quart
66. Italian pronoun
67. Heraldic bearing
68. Computer key
69. Fisherman's spool
70. Draw a ___ on
71. Twinklers

DOWN

1. Throw a seven
2. Mauna Loa's locale
3. Spelt
4. Fissures
5. ___ di cappella (choirmaster)
6. Sheep dogs
7. It's above the counter at McDonald's
8. Component

9. Smidgen
10. Artist's résumé
11. Have ___ with (argue)
12. Amos's "Good Times" costar
13. ___ in (focused one's attention)
21. Car clubs: abbr.
22. Locale of Darius's palace
25. Slow vessel
26. King Kong and Mighty Joe Young
27. Workers on board
28. Hartbeest
30. Clean, as fowl
33. Depiction
35. "Cavalleria Rusticana" character
36. Donkeys: Fr.
37. Art style

40. Concurred
43. Generic street name
44. Anne or Jeanne, e.g.: abbr.
46. Discontinue
47. Annette and Peter
51. Road worker
52. Come up
53. Hygienist's directive
54. Fifth tire
56. "Our Man" played by Coburn
59. Spanish cooking pot
60. "___ way to go!"
61. At no time, poetically
62. Bobby of hockey et al.
64. Clara Bow's 'do



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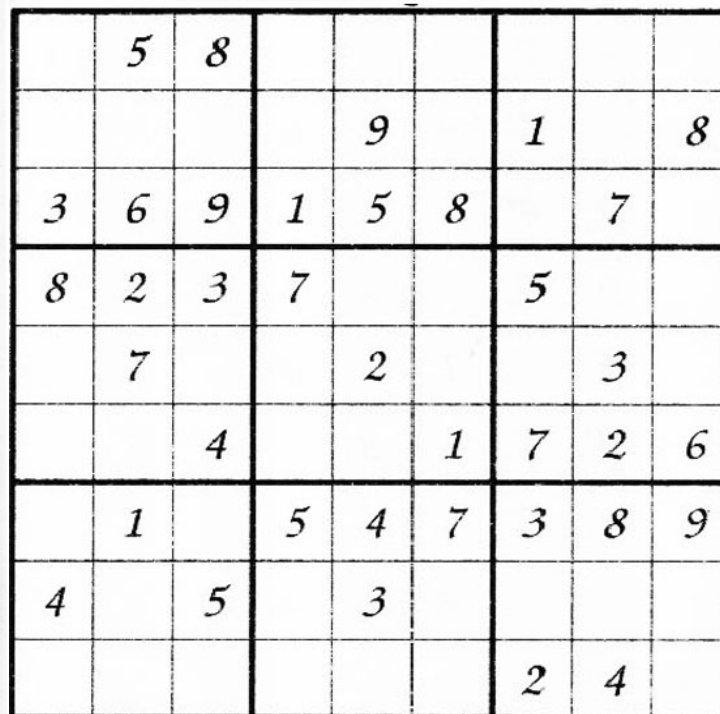
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	7	2	9	1	8	4	6	3
8	1	9	6	3	7	5	8	2
6	8	4	7	5	9	1	2	3
9	2	1	8	3	6	7	5	4
7	5	8	3	6	1	2	9	4
1	6	5	7	9	4	8	2	3
2	4	7	8	5	1	6	9	3
8	5	1	6	9	2	7	3	4
4	9	6	2	1	7	8	5	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

ECB says liquidity measures effective, holds rates steady

FRANKFURT (AFP) - The European Central Bank said yesterday its decision to make unlimited liquidity available to eurozone banks was helping to stabilise the region's crisis-ridden economy as it left key rates unchanged.

At its first policy-setting meeting of this year, the ECB held its main interest rates steady at 1.0 percent, as expected, following two straight months of rate cuts.

Bank chief Mario Draghi told a news conference that recent moves to provide banks with unprecedented amounts of liquidity were proving effective in tackling the debt crisis.

"We have seen several... positive developments. The more time that passes since we had the first three-year long-term refinancing operation, the more we see signs that it has

been an effective policy measure," Draghi said.

Last month, the ECB launched its longest-ever liquidity operations, lending eurozone banks as much as they wanted for a period of three years at super-cheap rates.

It was just one of a number of special liquidity measures to avert a credit crunch in the 17 countries that share the euro. And banks in the region queued up in their hundreds to borrow nearly half a trillion euros in the first-ever operation in late December.

Demand in a second operation scheduled for February was expected to be just as strong, Draghi said.

Nevertheless, there has been concern that instead of lending the money on to businesses, the banks have preferred to park the cash at the ECB instead of fear of possi-

ble default.

But the central bank chief insisted this was not the case.

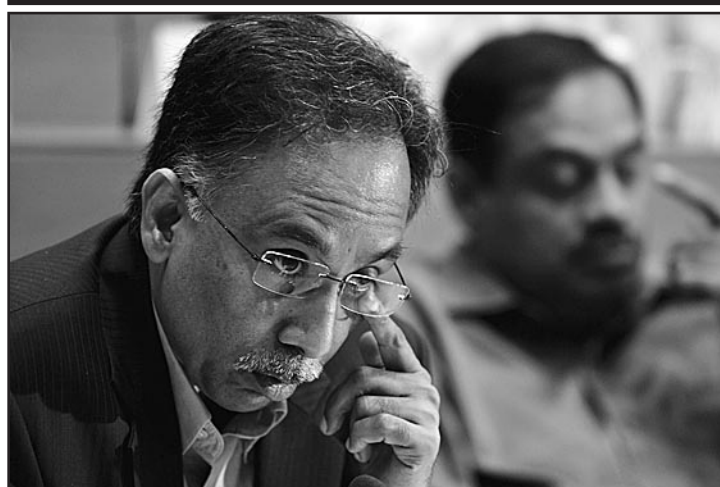
"We really see evident signs that this money does not stay in the deposit facility, this money circulates in the economy," he said.

"By and large, the banks that have borrowed the money from the ECB are not the same that are redepositing the money with the ECB."

The ECB has said from the very beginning that while it is willing to play firefighter, it is ultimately up to governments to solve the debt crisis by putting their finances in order.

A number of the debt-ravaged eurozone countries were making "very substantial, very significant" efforts on this front, Draghi said.

"I think that to some extent, the markets are showing some appreciation for this," he said.



IBANGALORE, India -- S.D. Shibula (L), CEO and Managing Director of Infosys Limited, gestures while Chief Financial Officer CFO, V. Balakrishnan (R) looks on during a press conference announcing the company's third quarter results in Bangalore on January 12, 2012. Indian IT giant Infosys posted a 33 percent rise in its quarterly profit, but warned of a slowdown caused by global uncertainty and the European debt crisis. (AFP)

Air France-KLM announces 1 bn euro cost-cutting plan

PARIS (AFP) - Air France-KLM said yesterday it would implement a three-year cost-cutting plan, including wage freezes and investment reductions, aimed at saving at least one billion euros (\$1.3 billion) and reducing its debt.

The company said in a statement that its board of directors had approved "an am-

bitious three-year plan to restore profitability."

"New cost-cutting measures amounting to some one billion euros will be implemented immediately," it said, including a freeze on general pay rises in 2012 and 2013 at Air France and wage moderation at KLM.

A hiring freeze introduced in September will continue, it said, and talks will begin with unions on renegotiating employment rules to bring "a significant improvement in productivity."

The company aims to reduce its net debt by two billion euros to about 4.5 billion euros by the end of December 2014, it said. Its investment program will also be reduced from more than six billion euros for the 2009-2011 period to less than five billion euros for the next three years.



"Given the uncertain eco-

nomie environment and the ongoing imbalance between transport supply and demand, the board deemed it necessary to opt for quasi stable capacity for the Air France-KLM Group in both passenger and cargo," it said.

"Consequently, over the next three years (2012-2014), the group will only increase capacity by a little over five percent on a cumulative basis."

It said this would lead to a "shrinkage of the group's fleet with attendant reduction in the investment programme."

Air France-KLM said its short- and medium-haul network had lost about 700 million euros last year and would be restructured to better use its aircraft, improve employee productivity and redefine "certain activities", a move that could lead to more extensive outsourcing.

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of:
01/12/2012

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.73	1.75	1.77
Britain	GBP	2.66	2.71	2.77
Switzerland	CHF	187.10	187.82	188.62
Netherlands	EUR	224.78	226.83	229.11
Sweden	SEK	24.64	25.36	26.16
Denmark	DKK	29.54	30.26	31.06
Norway	NOK	28.58	29.30	30.10
Japan	JPY	229.56	231.65	233.98

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German budget deficit for 2011 tumbles

BERLIN (AFP) - Robust economic growth and higher tax revenues slashed the German budget deficit to nearly three times less than originally forecast, the finance ministry said yesterday.

The federal government's deficit tumbled to 17.3 billion euros (\$22.2 billion), compared with the 48.4 billion euros it had initially expected, according to official figures.

Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble had said during the course of the year that it could hit 30 billion euros while his ministry just weeks ago corrected the figure down to around 20 billion euros.

The German government yesterday cited the strength of Europe's top economy and the labour market in particular as highly auspicious factors for the country's fiscal health.

The 2011 budget shows "that budgetary consolidation and growth are twin siblings who get on extremely well together," a top finance min-

istry official, Steffen Kampeter, told reporters.

Germany's public deficit fell to just 1.0 percent of gross domestic product last year, the federal statistics office announced Wednesday, after hitting 4.3 percent in 2010, bringing it back below the 3.0-percent ceiling set by the EU.

Berlin had pledged to bring its deficit below that limit in 2013 and the figures underlined the widening gulf between Germany's prospects and those of the crisis-ravaged members of the 17-country eurozone.

However Kampeter said Germany's outlook for 2012 was cloudier due to diminished economic growth projections, with the budget deficit expected to reach 26.1 billion euros.

Official data released Wednesday showed that the German economy grew by 3.0 percent in 2011 but the eurozone debt crisis brought it almost to a halt in the final months of the year.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



COLIGNOLA, Italy -- Engineers check a floating photovoltaic panel system rotating automatically as it follows the sun, setup upon the surface of the lake of Colignola, a village near Pisa, Italy. The experiment called "Floating, Tracking, Cooling, Concentration FCC" is made of panels totalizing some 300 square-meter. (AFP PHOTO)

THE MORNING NEWS photo contest deadline extended by popular demand



"THE MORNING NEWS photo contest makes me want to jump and dance!!"

THE MORNING NEWS is extending its photo contest to the end of the carnival season.

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the paper is put online, you will receive an link to the current edition in your e-mail inbox; there is no cost whatsoever for this service.

Just subscribing to THE MORNING NEWS online will earn you a chance to win two tickets to Bonaire with Tiara Air Aruba, and sending in your photos will earn more raffle tickets in the box and more chances to win. The contest is open to Aruban residents and visitors alike.

Contest Rules:

1. Subscribe to THE MORNING NEWS online - it's free!!

2. Go to www.themorningnewsaruba.com, click the subscribe button and follow directions to receive THE MORNING NEWS delivered to your e-mail box daily for no charge.

3. Send an e-mail to themorningnewsaruba@aol.com to inform the office of your user name and contact info: real name, address, & phone number, and receive 1 raffle ticket

4. Like us on Facebook, and receive a second raffle ticket

5. Raffle tickets are for final drawing on Ash Wednesday 2012;

6. Grand Prize:

Airfare for two to Bonaire with Tiara Airlines and other fabulous prizes

Photo contest prizes: You must subscribe to submit

1. Send us your favorite carnival pix via e-mail or deliver to our office on Caya Betico Croes

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2. "Picks of the day and week" will appear in THE MORNING NEWS

3. Contest begins today and deadline for submissions of photos is Monday, February 20, 2012 at 6:00 PM; drawing for raffle will take place on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

4. Judging is final; winners will be announced in Friday's paper, February 24.

5. Each photo submission earns a raffle ticket towards the Ash Wednesday drawing

Prizes for the Carnival photo Contest:

Grand Prize: 3 days/2 nights stay at Boardwalk Apartments

2nd Prize: Trip for two on Mi Dushi Sailboat

3rd Prize: Complete Play package at Cool Casino



Prize winners will receive additional raffle tickets towards final drawing, and a special surprise for the grand prize winning photo.

No purchase necessary to participate; subscription to THE MORNING NEWS and submission of photos are free; photos will only be used for Carnival promotion and owners retain all rights.

Jolie, Pitt meet Obama in Oval Office



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama took a break from the affairs of state to rub shoulders with Hollywood royalty Wednesday, meeting Angelina Jolie and her beau Brad Pitt at the White House.

Jolie was in Washington for the launch of her new movie "In the Land of Blood and Honey" and the couple were seen through the paneled windows of the Oval Office by reporters and photographers.

porters and photographers.

"President Obama spoke with Ms Jolie about her work to raise the profile of preventing mass atrocities and combating sexual violence against women," said Jamie Smith, a White House spokeswoman.

Jolie, in a dark dress, and Pitt, wearing black framed glasses, spent several minutes speaking to Obama before he left aboard his Marine One helicopter for a campaign

fundraising trip in Chicago.

The Oscar-winning actress premiered the film, her directorial debut, at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington on Tuesday night.

The movie relates the story of a couple who had a fling before Bosnia's 1992-1995 war and met up again when the woman was taken prisoner by a unit of the Bosnian Serb army commanded by her former lover.

He shields her at first but is transferred and she suffers abuse and rape at the hands of the soldiers.

At the premiere, Jolie, who as well as her film work pursues a wide range of humanitarian causes as a UN goodwill ambassador, offered a mixed review of Obama's presidency.

"I think there are many, many things I think have gone in a wonderful direction and there a few things I am in disappointed in," she told the Daily Caller website.

"But there are many wonderful things that have moved forward and of course some other things that are very frustrating."

Vietnamese film helps change attitude to gays



Two gay men at a World AIDS Day event in Hanoi.

(AFP) - Vietnam's first film to openly feature love and intimacy between gay men is helping to change attitudes in a country where homosexuality is often seen either as a disease or a source of ridicule.

Curious filmgoers have streamed into cinemas to catch "Lost in Paradise", which chronicles the doomed love affair between a gay prostitute and a book seller and provides a rare glimpse into a usually hidden side of Vietnam.

For some, the movie was eye-opening, with one Vietnamese woman saying the bittersweet love story had changed her views about homosexuality.

"Now I think they are just like us," said the 50-year-old

state employee, who did not want to give her name, after watching the film in the capital.

Others, though, seemed uncomfortable, with a group of youths at a recent screening at Hanoi's Platinum Cinema laughing and a teenage girl covering her eyes during a scene in which the two lead actors kiss tenderly.

Homosexuality remains largely taboo in communist Vietnam, where Confucian social mores, with their emphasis on tradition and family, still dominate.

Gays are routinely portrayed as comical figures or as people suffering from a condition that can be treated -- something the makers of "Lost in Paradise" hope to help change.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers,

airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoast-aruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what



Rosie and Aaron love their burger too



Gouda Burger 2

made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

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SPORTS

Football: Gerrard extends Liverpool stay

LONDON (AFP) - Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard is to stay at Anfield after signing a contract extension with the Premier League club.

Local hero Gerrard, 31, has been a one-club man throughout his career and the England midfielder told liverpoolfc.tv on Thursday: "I'm very happy. It's a very proud day for myself and my family."

The deal, the terms of which have not been made public, was announced less than a day after Gerrard scored the only goal in the Reds' League Cup semi-final first leg win at Manchester City.

"It comes on the back of a fantastic team performance last night when we got the result we were looking for," Gerrard added. "The contract extension coming the day after has been the icing on the cake so it has been a perfect 24 hours."

His latest goal meant Gerrard has now scored in two of his three appearances since the new year as he looks to put a difficult 2011, where he was sidelined with groin and ankle

problems, behind him.

"This is the club I love and is the club I have supported since I was a young boy," Gerrard said. "I am living the dream as the captain of one of the biggest clubs in the world."

"I love coming to work every day and the experiences I have had since I was eight years of age and first signed for the club, I wouldn't change them for the world."

"To extend that and to hopefully have some more good times in a red shirt is what I want."

"There will be more highs and lows, there's no doubt about it as that's part and parcel of being a football player at a top club."

"The important thing is that you react well to the lows and experience more of the highs."

"I'm confident moving forward that the club is going in the right direction."

"We've got a fantastic team, we've got the right owners in place and the right team behind our team, so I'm really confident we'll have more good experiences in the fu-

ture."

His latest deal means Gerrard is set to finish his playing career at Liverpool, having joined the Merseysiders as a schoolboy.

But the Reds are already planning for the time when he does retire, having offered him an ambassadorial role similar to the one occupied by Kenny Dalglish before he was recalled for his second spell as Liverpool manager.

"It's really flattering for me that the club have offered me the chance to stay when I eventually hang my boots up," said Gerrard.

"Hopefully that will be in many years to come because I want to play for as long as I can."

"I'll know myself when it's time to hang my boots up and then hopefully I can stay involved with the club and set the right example for youngsters coming through."

Meanwhile a delighted Dalglish said: "For us, for Steven and for everybody connected with football club it's fantastic news."

Cricket: ECB offer player amnesty over corruption approaches

LONDON (AFP) - English cricket chiefs have offered an amnesty to players to report past match-fixing approaches after former Essex bowler Mervyn Westfield pleaded guilty to spot-fixing at the Old Bailey on Thursday.

Westfield, 23, entered a guilty plea to charges of accepting or obtaining a corrupt payment to bowl in a way that would allow the scoring of runs.

He received £6,000 (\$9,199) to bowl so that 12 runs would be scored in the first over of a match against Durham in September 2009, although in fact only 10 were scored.

It is already an offence under England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) regulations for players to fail to report approaches related to corrupt activities.

But the governing body, at a meeting Thursday, established a "window" until April 30 whereby players can report previous approaches without the threat of ECB punishment.

Chris Watts, information

manager to the ECB's Anti-Corruption Commission for Education, Standards and Security (ACCESS), said: "Information is critical in addressing the threat posed by corruption in sport."

"The decision of the board to provide a window for retrospective reporting of alleged approaches will greatly assist the ACCESS unit in compiling a more complete picture of the source and focus of approaches which may have taken place in the past."

"Individuals may not have thought these approaches were worthy of reporting at the time and, prior to the decision of the board, may have been concerned that the fact that they did not report such activity may have put them at risk of disciplinary action."

"I am working closely with the PCA (Professional Cricketers Association) to provide players and officials with this opportunity to work with our ACCESS unit to ensure that we work together to address the threat created by corruption in sport."

Italy's horse racing world risks collapse: protesters



Employees of the horse-racing sector protest in front of the Italian parliament on January 12, 2011 in Rome. The demonstrators are protesting against budget cuts in the racecourses following the austerity measures of Italy's new government. **AFP PHOTO**

ROME (AFP) - Riders, trainers and breeders wearing horse-head masks and blowing trumpets protested outside parliament on Thursday against fierce subsidy cuts threatening the future of horse racing.

Demonstrators rallied in central Rome to demand the government review its decision to dramatically cut funding for racecourses and prize-money, saying the sport is in financial straits and risks total collapse.

"Horse racing in Italy is in peril, it's dying off, and at least

50,000 people risk losing their jobs," said Sandro Moscati, deputy head of the National Trotting Horse Breeders Association, among the protest's organisers.

There have been no races in Italy since January 1, when all areas of the sport joined together to strike against the cuts, imposed as the country slips into recession and Rome struggles to bring its unwieldy debt under control.

All 41 racecourses across the country have closed, forcing runners who regularly come from across Europe to race to look elsewhere.

Agriculture Minister Mario Catania has promised to aid the sector, but slammed the strike as senseless and said that considering Italy's financial woes, "it is clear that the horse racing sector will have to tighten its belt."

State funds for the sector are being cut by 40 percent, protesters say.

The tension on Thursday rose as demonstrators waving placards reading "Horse Racing Killers!" threw eggs and firecrackers at police manning the protest.

Decked out in blue T-shirts reading "Save Italian Racing" -- adopted after the UK-based jockey Frankie Dettori wore one to a major international meet last month -- the protesters said the whole system needed to be changed.

Italy's racing governing

body Assi is accused of "making a hash of things by racking up big debts and ignoring the obvious fact that betting numbers have fallen sharply over the past few years," said rider Tommaso Gusani.

Around 150 protesters broke into the Assi office in Rome at the start of January in an attempt to prevent the broadcasting of foreign races.

According to the Italian gambling authorities, betting on horses fell 20 percent last year compared to 2010, with punters placing just 1.37 billion euros (\$1.75 billion) and spectator stands at tracks left increasingly empty.

"No-one goes to the races anymore. People have got the idea that it's a seedy place full of drug dealers and corruption, but it's not. There's a great family atmosphere," said 20-year-old show-jumper Silvia Olivieri.

Giadda Menato, 21, who had travelled from Milan to join the protest, said there was more at risk than "the end of legal racing".

"Lots of the horses will come to a sticky end, and those which don't will probably be raced illegally. It's already happening in Sicily," she said.

The National Zoomafia Observatory has called on the government to prevent organised crime from profiting from the crisis through illegal races -- a business it says is worth around a billion euros a year.

There is also concern that should the sector collapse, some may rid themselves of the horses by selling their meat.

Organisers said Thursday's protest in which around 600 people took part would not be their last.

On Sunday, protesters raced 20 horses along the seafront in Naples, much to the bemusement of passing tourists.

Horse racing in Italy dates back to ancient Rome, when hordes of spectators would gather to watch riotous and often deadly chariot races. Today, the biggest crowds turn out for the Palio di Siena, where jockeys race bareback.

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Monaco spearheads Argentina Davis Cup challenge

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Juan Monaco will spearhead Argentina's Davis Cup opener against Germany in the absence of their top-ranked player Juan Martin del Potro next month.

Argentina, who lost last year's final to Spain, will line out with Monaco, Juan Ignacio Chela, David Nalbandian and Eduardo Schwank in Bamberg, Germany from February 10-12.

Del Potro, ranked 11th, has opted not to compete in the World Group first round tie on clay in order to focus on the start of the season.

The 2009 US Open cham-

pion lost both his singles rubbers in the 2011 Davis Cup final against Spain in Seville, a match which was also played on clay.

In his absence, Argentina captain Martin Jaite will look to Monaco, the world number 27, Chela (ranked 29) and the doubles pairing of Nalbandian (64) and Schwank (143).

"We know that we face a complicated tie against a very solid German team. But we have experience and that gives me a lot of confidence," said Jaite.

Germany will be lead by Florian Mayer, ranked 22, and Philipp Kohlschreiber, 42.

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MLB extends Selig's contract for two years

PHOENIX (AFP) - Major League Baseball's owners have voted to extend commissioner Bud Selig's contract for another two years.

The new extension now takes the 77-year-old Selig through the 2014 season, the league announced on Thursday.

"It is an honor to be asked to continue to serve the game of baseball, and I thank the clubs for their confidence in the direction in which we have taken the game," Selig said.

"This is an extraordinary era for Major League Baseball. The focus is on the field, competitive balance is strong, and fans around the world are supporting our game in unprecedented fashion.

"I am very humbled by the request to stay on, and I look forward to building on the great momentum our game has seen in recent years."

Selig, who is the former owner of the Milwaukee Brewers, was instrumental in expanding interleague play, creating three divisions in each league and awarding home-field advantage in the World Series for the winner of the all-star game.

Selig also oversaw American baseball during some of the most turbulent moments in the history of the game.

Much of his legacy will be defined by the blind eye the league took for years towards rampant steroid use which led to many of its star players being forced out of the game after Mitchell Report was released in 2007. Selig has since brought in new drug testing laws.

Under his watch, the 1994 World Series was also wiped out because of a players' strike. It marked only the second time in league history the game did not take place.



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Golf: Lightweights steal show from Major winner Schwartzel



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Lightweights Damien McGrane of Ireland and Jamie Elson of England stole the show from reigning US Masters champion Charl Schwartzel of South Africa Thursday in a storm-hit Joburg Open first round.

McGrane and Elson -- ranked 250 and 395 respectively in the world -- were the clubhouse leaders after carding eight-under-par 63s on the easier west course at Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club.

They are one stroke ahead of South Africans Desvonde Botes and Peter

Karmis and Reinier Saxton from the Netherlands in the second event of the 2012 European Tour.

Botes returned a 65 over the tougher par-72 east course and Karmis and Saxton 64s over the west course in one of only three tournaments on the circuit that uses more than one course.

Scots David Drysdale and George Murray, South Africans George Coetzee and Shaun Norris, Swede Joel Sjöholm and Spaniard Carlos Del Moral are a shot further back after 65s over the west layout.

Schwartzel, ranked nine in the world and seeking to

match Ernie Els, Sir Nick Faldo, Colin Montgomerie, Tiger Woods and Ian Woosnam by winning a European Tour event three consecutive times, was level par after 15 holes when play stopped.

Electric storms halted golf for more than four hours at both courses in a leafy northern Johannesburg suburb, leaving many of the 210-strong field to complete their first rounds early Friday.

"I played beautifully from start to finish and this course does give up opportunities. The perfect greens were offering birdie chances and I holed some nice putts," said diminutive 40-year-old McGrane.

Seeking a second European Tour title after winning the 2008 China Open, the Irishman claimed

seven birdies and chipped in for an eagle at 15 before dropping his only shot of the round at the final hole.

Elson started spectacularly with four consecutive birdies and was six-under by the turn before bogeying 10 and 11, but that damage was undone with another four birdies.

"I had a good time here last year, shooting a six-under second round over the tougher course, so if I can do that again it would be nice," said 30-year-old Elson.

A seven-time European Tour winner, Schwartzel lacked accuracy off the tee in a seesaw east-course round that included four birdies and four bogeys, leaving him with plenty to do while fondly recalling a second-round 61 last year.

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